

Written Testimony Submitted for the House Appropriations Committee
Testimony of Nancy Taubert
HB 609 –The Library Workers Empowerment Act
February 13th, 2024

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the House Appropriations:

My name is Nancy Taubert and I am a Building Care Technician for the Broadneck branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Libraries. As a Building Care Tech, my job description often only captures a small percentage of the actual work that I do. As a result, I am often tasked with doing things that do not have proper precautions, proper preparation, or adequate training. Without these things, my job is often more dangerous than it should be. Whether it is exposure to the elements, dangerous heights, or unsanitary conditions, I want to be able to resolve these issues directly, alongside the other BCTs that face the same challenges I do. The only way we can do that is through collective bargaining.

We can bargain for the health and safety language we need, ensuring that our working conditions are suitable and appropriate. More than that, we can bring to the table the threats that our branches are facing. We can say, not individually, but as one body, that we need better resources, and more targeted solutions, to these threats. Right now, we are scattered across branches, all over the county. But at the table, we can sit side by side. We can do this if you pass this legislation. Please support HB 609, and give us the power to speak for ourselves, and for our libraries.

Nancy Taubert
BCT
AACPL